

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. No claims have been amended or added. Claims 17-23 have been canceled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-16 remain pending.

Restriction of the claims was required under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as covering distinct inventions. Claims 1-16 (Claim Group I) were indicated as drawn to an apparatus to lock a housing. Claims 17-24 (Claim Group II) were indicated as drawn to a method for locking a housing. Applicants elect Claim Group I (claims 1-16 without traverse). Accordingly, claims 17-24 have been canceled.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
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-2-

Examiner Lloyd A. Gall  
Art Unit 3676